

## £250 Raised at Opening of Murringo Memorial Hall

### Successful and Crowded Day Brings Splendid Results

MEMORIAL TABLETS UNVEILED BY MOTHERS OF FALLEN MEN.

SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE ATTEND BANQUET AND BALL.

Sheer hard work by the committee and officers resulted in the raising of the magnificent sum of approximately £250 on the day of the opening of the new Memorial Hall at Murringo by Major A. D. Reid, M.L.A., on Wednesday.

Early in the afternoon four mothers of sons who had given their lives for Australia unveiled the memorial tablets on each side of the handsome entrance to the brick and freestone building, which takes the place of the old stone hall.

The mothers were: Mrs. T. Stevenson, Murringo; Mrs. W. Oakey, Murringo Creek; Mrs. Footes, Murringo; and Mrs. J. Cummins, Burrows.

Solemnly standing with bare heads the large crowd saw these women, wearing their lost son's medals, draw aside the red, white and blue bunting, symbol of that British freedom for which they had made their sacrifice. And in that unveiling they uncovered for this and future generations to see and honor the names of those men who had left Murringo to fight in the war.

Mr. Dan Cummins, president of the hall committee, had first welcomed to Murringo the large crowd of visitors, and, appropriately enough, short addresses were made by the Rev. A. C. Cutts and Rev. Father McDonald.

#### HALL INSPECTED.

Following the opening of the hall by Major Reid, and an inspection by the people, who were favorably impressed by the bright wood-pannelled walls, the roomy blue-curtained stage and general atmosphere of neatness and airiness, a banquet was served

in the old hall, at which Mr. Dan Cummins presided, and was supported by the principal visitors.

Music was provided by the 'Gloomchasers' orchestra, and an excellent repast was served by the ladies. There followed a short toast list.

#### £110 FROM BALL.

In the evening there was a ball, at which no less than £110 was taken at the door. Large and roomy through the hall was, its accommodation was taxed to the utmost by the 300 dancers who assembled. A large number were from Young.

Music was again provided by the 'Gloomchasers'. A very jolly time was spent by everyone. Several novelty dances were introduced; also balloon dances, chocolate waltzes and so on, all of which added to the gaiety of the evening. Everyone declared that the dance was one of the

gaiety of the evening. Everyone declared that the dance was one of the most enjoyable they had ever attended.

#### "SHEER HARD WORK."

Mr. Cummins, Mr. Roy Harcombe, the genial secretary, and the committee did wonderful work. They had, of course, sterling assistance from the ladies. What with suppers and banquets and one thing and another, in fact, the ladies seemed to bear the brunt of the day, but the organization for the whole function appeared to be simply splendid.

The amount of money raised is in itself sufficient testimony to what the organizers put into it. "How did you manage to achieve such a wonderful result?" Mr. Cummins was asked, and he replied, "Work, just sheer hard work."

The hall cost nearly £2000 to build and equip, and when Mr. Robert Rumble made a spirited appeal for funds at the banquet the debt on the hall was approximately £1000. Wednesday's effort must have reduced that debt very considerably.

Parliament, where they found that the 14 different parties were grouped under two wings, —the "lefts" and the "rights". The discussion which they were listening to became wild and woolly, and eventually one excited deputy landed another a blow on the jaw. "By golly!" said one of the "diggers". "They talk about 'lefts' and 'rights' and they know how to use them!"

Replying, Major Reid said that Murringo was to be congratulated on their achievement in erecting such a fine memorial to the men who went to the war. He felt it was only what should be done to perpetuate the memory of those who had made the Supreme Sacrifice on the other side. They as citizens should do nothing to dishonour those men or the country for which they had given their lives. It behoved every man and woman to remember that 300,000 Australians had gone to the war, and 65,000 laid down their lives, 60,000 of the finest of our A.S.I. are lost from our small population. It was only fitting that they should perpetuate their memory, and a memorial such as the hall was of practical value, as it performed a service to the community, such as a statue never could do.

The toast of the Memorial Hall was proposed by Cr. Sid Taylor, the Shire President, and Mr. Jack Hourke, of Burrows, replied, "As the hall cannot speak I was asked to respond on its behalf" observed Mr. Bourke naively.

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#### EXCELLENT WORKERS.

The Mayor of Young (Ald. J. McLennan), proposing the committee, said were it not for the excellent workers who belonged to it, they would never have had the Memorial Hall there that day. It was all very well to contribute small sums towards the cost of erection, but that did not amount to very much unless they had a committee who would work. Their president and secretary, particularly, were fine types of men, of whom any district should be proud.

"The committee are only servants of the people" replied Mr. Cummins. "We are elected annually by the people of the district, and if we did not work, we would not be there for long." A modest reply, typical of the man.

Mr. Harcombe, in his reply, said he was very proud of the workers on his committee, especially of the ladies. "We've only got four; I wish to goodness there were 40" he said.

#### MR. PATTERSON AND THE LADIES.

To Mr. J. J. Patterson, 'all the toast of the ladies, and it happened to be the 25th anniversary of his wedding day. "That he to nerve me a little" he said, amid laughter. "We have been praising, and quite rightly, the work of the soldiers" said Mr. Patterson, "but without the ladies much of that work would never have been accomplished." He went on to describe the woman's part in world events, and said that it appeared as if Mr. Harcombe at least had discovered what a great help women were. "The men" said Mr. Patterson, "decide to hold some event or function, and strut about and say, 'We did all this!' But they did no such thing! It was the ladies!" (Laughter and applause). The toast was replied to on behalf of the ladies by Mr. Harvey McGregor.

#### FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM.

In proposing the toast of the returned men, Mr. Robert Rumble said they had not only fought for the liberty of the British Empire but for the freedom of the world. He spoke of the fine work returned men were doing on the Young Soldier Settlements. "They, by their production of thousands of tons of fruit each year, are still helping to make Australia great" said Mr. Rumble. "Nothing we can do for those returned men is too much." The response was by Mr. Tom Perry.

In his toast to the Press, Ald. Habbets spoke of its value to the community and the nation, and said the press at Young was always prepared to give both sides of a question.

In his appeal for funds Mr. Rumble said that the work of the perpetuation of the memory of the soldiers was one of the finest to which people could give their money.

The proceeding concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr. Cummins, proposed by Major Reid, seconded by Mr. McGregor, and carried with applause.